

In the Claims

Claims 1, 20, and 29 are currently amended.

Claims 2-12 are original.

Claims 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21-28, and 30-41 are canceled.

1. (currently amended) A knife assembly for a wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a knife having a cutting edge and opposing front and back sides extending from said cutting edge, said front side having a first interlocking feature and said back side having a second interlocking feature; and

an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said knife, said outer clamping member having a third interlocking feature for interlocking with said second interlocking feature to index said knife to said outer clamping member, wherein said second interlocking feature includes opposed first plane surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, and said third interlocking feature includes corresponding opposed second plane surfaces defining a second positive angle that is slightly greater than said first positive angle, for wedging said outer clamping member in said second interlocking feature.

2. (original) The knife assembly of claim 1, further comprising a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife and to mount to the apparatus, said counterknife having a fourth interlocking feature for interlocking with said first interlocking feature to index said knife to said counterknife, said outer clamping member adapted to mount to said counterknife.

3.(original) The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about 1/4 - 7 degrees.

4.(original) The knife assembly of claim 2, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about $1/4$ - 7 degrees.

5.(original) The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees.

6.(original) The knife assembly of claim 2, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees.

7.(original) The knife assembly of claim 5, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

8.(original) The knife assembly of claim 6, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

9.(original) The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein said opposed first plane surfaces are spaced apart by an intermediating plane surface, said first plane surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, said first plane surfaces defining respective equal angles with respect to said intermediating plane surface.

10.(original) The knife assembly of claim 9, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about $1/4$ - 7 degrees.

11.(original) The knife assembly of claim 9, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees

12.(original) The knife assembly of claim 11, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

13.(canceled)

14.(canceled)

15.(canceled)

16.(canceled)

17.(canceled)

18.(canceled)

19.(canceled)

20.(currently amended) ~~The knife assembly of claim 18;~~ A knife assembly for a wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a knife having an elongate axis and comprising two spaced apart cutting edges parallel to said elongate axis and opposing front and back sides extending between said cutting edges, said front side having a pair of spaced apart deflector ridges extending parallel to said elongate axis and outwardly from said front side;

a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife, said counterknife having an interlocking feature providing for contact with said knife between said deflector ridges, to index said knife to said counterknife, said knife including respective planar surfaces adjacent each of said deflector ridges extending out to the corresponding cutting edges, wherein said counterknife includes a planar surface adapted to make contact with a selected one of said planar surfaces of said knife; and

an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said knife ~~and to mount to said counterknife~~, said outer clamping member having an interlocking feature for interlocking with a corresponding interlocking feature of said back side of said knife to index said knife to said outer clamping member so that, in cooperation with said ~~substantially full~~ contact, a small gap exists between an exposed one of said deflector ridges and said counterknife, said gap ranging from about 0.001" - 0.008".

21-28.(canceled)

29.(currently amended) A wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a rotating member for rotating about an axis of rotation;

a knife having a cutting edge and opposing front and back sides extending from said cutting edge, said front side having a first interlocking feature and said back side having a second interlocking feature;

an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said knife, said outer clamping member having a third interlocking feature for interlocking with said second interlocking feature to index said knife to said outer clamping member, and said second interlocking feature includes opposed first plane surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, wherein said third interlocking feature includes corresponding opposed second plane surfaces defining a second positive angle that is slightly greater than said first positive angle, for wedging said outer clamping member in said second interlocking feature; and

a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife and to mount to said rotating member, said counterknife having a fourth interlocking feature for interlocking with said first interlocking feature to index said knife to said counterknife, said outer clamping member adapted to mount to said counterknife.

30-41.(canceled)